[7th January 1954

Repairs to the Karai Eri in Gingee taluk.

* 367 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state for how long the repairs to the Karai Eri have been pending in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sanction to repairs to the tank was accorded in February 1953 and work has been pending as the original contractor entrusted with the work defaulted and the new contractor who was subsequently engaged could not proceed with the work as the tank had meanwhile received supplies. It is expected that the work will be taken up by the end of January 1954."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know why there was default on the part of the contractor? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Government cannot give an explanation for the failure of the contractor."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Are the Government aware that in backward areas like Gingee and Kallakurichi, contractors are not coming forward to execute contracts and whether in such places, will the Government take up the execution of such works themselves? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, is it the intention of the hon. Member to discourage the local people from getting contracts? "

Tanks maintained by the Public Works Department in Gingee taluk.

* 368 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the total number of tanks under the Public Works Department in Gingee taluk?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The total number of tanks under the Public Works Department in Gingee Taluk is 48."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know what is the amount that was spent last year? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have no information on hand at present, Sir."

Abolition of district boards.

* 369 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the special reasons for the proposal to abolish the district boards and revive taluk boards; and

(*b*) the savings to Government, if any, by such a proposal?